for a stable new global security framework". The statement made no reference to any National Missile Defence System.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Establishment of SAARC Parliament

1285. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to move seriously to establish a SAARC Parliament on the analogy of European Parliament; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to establish a SAARC Parliament on the analogy of European Parliament under consideration of the SAARC at present.

Purchase of oil from Iraq

1286. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleasd to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is buying oil from Iraq at US $ 7.0 per barrel against a global price of US $ 27.00 per barrel as a part of a barter deal for wheat, while this is subject to UN approval.

(b) whether it is also a fact that three consignments of wheat sent to Iraq were rejected as this consignment did not conform to global standards; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and its present status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has

undertaken to answer this question as this falls under their jurisdiction.

Boosting of trade with Australia

1287. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether government are aware of the news-item titled "Jaswant discusses steps to boost trade with Australia" appearing in the Hindu dated 21st June, 2001;

(b) whether the possibility of Australia exporting LNG and boosting trade which has come down by 0.7 billion between the two countries in 2000-2001 in comparison to 1997-98 and the position of both the countries with regard to Fiji issue was discussed by him during his recent visit to that country; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the outcome on each issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Yes, Madame.

(b) Yes, Madame.

(c) The question regarding bilateral trade between India and Australia was discussed by EAM both with Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer and with Australian Trade Minister Mark Vaile. It was agreed that bilateral trade was not commensurate with the potential and that efforts should be made both to increase it and to improve the balance which is currently adverse for India. Increasing investor confidence through simplifying rules and encouraging visits of Trade Delegations from India were some of the suggestions made. Opportunities in the field of information technology, roads and ports, mining, housing and infrastructure, and insurance were also highlighted. The possibility of Australia exporting LNG to India was also discussed as India needs energy from sources other than coal to reach its GDP growth targets.

It will be seen, however, that while India's exports to Australia